

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 15753 041850Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-12 COME-00 CIEP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01

NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /128 W
----- 002506

R 041838Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5492

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, GW, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS SEEK GERMAN TRUCKS

REF: STUTTGART 836 (NOTAL)

1. THE GERMAN QUALITY NEWSPAPER, SUDDEUTSCHE
ZEITUNG ON OCT 4TH CONTAINS AN ADDITIONAL ACCOUNT
OF PLANNED SOVIET PURCHASE FROM THE GERMAN FIRM
KLOECKNER-HUMBOLDT-DEUTZ AG OF 10,000 HEAVY TRUCKS
WITH AIR-COOLED DIESEL ENGINES AT DM 1 BILLION.

2. THE SUDDEUTSCHE ACCOUNT BASED ON A TASS REPORT,
CONFIRMS THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE DEAL REPORTED IN
REFTEL BUT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A. TASS REPORTS THAT A CONTRACT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED
BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND KLOECKNER-HUMBOLDT DEUTZ (KHD)

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PAGE 02 BONN 15753 041850Z

AG OF COLOGNE;

B. KHD'S SUBSIDIARY MAGIRUS--WERK OF ULM REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED A JOINT VENTURE CONTRACT WITH FIAT, WE ASSUME FOR PRODUCTION OF THE TRUCKS. COOPERATION IS SCHEDULED TO START AT THE BEGINNING OF 1975.

2. FRG ECONOMIC MINISTRY OFFICIALS TELL US THEY WERE UNAWARE OF THE DEAL UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE IT APPEARED IN THE PAPERS, CONFIRMING THAT IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN THE BILATERAL CHANNEL OF THE FRG-USSR JOINT COMMISSION. THEY SUSPECT THE SOVIET UNION REQUIRES THE TRUCKS DURING THE 1975-76 TIME FRAME IN LIGHT OF THE REPORTED ONE YEAR DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION OF THE KAMA RIVER PLANT. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL ORDERS PLACED BY THE SOVIETS POSSIBLY WITH OTHER GERMAN TRUCK MANUFACTURERS. THE FRG ECONOMIC MINISTRY OFFICIAL NOTED THAT THIS ORDER COMES AT A TIME OF DOWNTURN IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY AND IS THEREFORE PARTICULARLY WELCOMED. ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, HE SPECULATED THAT THE ORDER WAS PLACED PRIOR TO THE CHANCELLOR'S VISIT AS A SIGNAL AS TO THE ADVANTAGES IN IMPROVED FRG-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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